

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A panel comprising:  
  
fibers;  
  
starch; and  
  
a latex, wherein the latex ~~comprises~~ is incorporated within the panel in an amount  
from about 0.01% to 0.97% ~~of the panel~~ by weight on a dry weight percent basis and  
forms an ultra thin, water-impermeable coating on the fibers within the panel such that  
water may flow through a cross section of the panel.
2. (Original) The panel of claim 1, wherein the latex further comprises a  
functional group selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, methylol,  
hydroxyl, urethane, amide, urea and combinations thereof.
3. (Original) The panel of claim 2, wherein carboxylic acid comprises from  
about 0.02% to about 7% by weight of the latex.
4. (Currently Amended) The panel of claim 1, wherein the latex comprises from  
about 0.01% to about 0.5% ~~of the panel~~ by weight on a dry weight percent basis.

5. (Currently Amended) A coated panel comprising:  
  
fibers;  
  
starch;  
  
a latex, wherein the latex ~~comprises~~ is incorporated within the panel in an amount  
from about 0.01% to 0.97% ~~of the panel~~ by weight on a dry weight percent basis and  
forms an ultra thin, water-impermeable coating on the fibers within the panel such that  
water may flow through a cross section of the panel; and

a coating including a chelating agent applied to a facing side of the panel.

6. (Original) The panel of claim 5, wherein the coating further comprises a  
binder and a filler.

7. (Original) The panel of claim 5, wherein the latex further comprises a  
functional group selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, methylol,  
hydroxyl, urethane, amide, urea and combinations thereof.

8. (Original) The panel of claim 7, wherein carboxylic acid comprises from  
about 0.02% to about 7% by weight of the latex.

9. (Currently Amended) The panel of claim 5, wherein the latex comprises from  
about 0.01% to about 0.5% ~~of the panel~~ by weight on a dry weight percent basis.